

Message Text

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NODIS

FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING RPT CAIRO 1359 ACTION SECSTATE TEL AVIV JAN 13

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 01359

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: SADAT/MUBARAK ON UPCOMING JERUSALEM POLITICAL

- COMMITTEE MEETING AND RELATED MATTERS

REF: (A) CAIRO 1303, (B) STATE 9711

SUMMARY: VP MUBARAK EXPRESSES SADAT'S CONCERN ABOUT
ISRAELI STATEMENTS RE SINAI SETTLEMENTS. TOLD MUBARAK
OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERTINENT PRESS CONFERENCE STATE-
MENTS, JANUARY 12. HE SAID SADAT AWARE OF THEM, VERY
PLEASED, AND WANTS HIS THANKS CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT
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CARTER FOR THESE STATEMENTS. ALSO TOLD MUBARAK, FOR
SADAT, OF RELATED ACTIONS WE HAVE TAKEN AND/OR WILL TAKE
WITH ISRAELIS RE SINAI SETTLEMENTS. MUBARAK STATES THAT,
IN VIEW INCONCLUSIVE MILITARY COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS,
GAMASY IS BEING INSTRUCTED NOT TO FIX A DATE FOR THE NEXT
SESSION. EGYPTIANS WISH EVALUATE RESULTS OF UPCOMING
POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER

RESUMED MC MEETING LIKELY BE USEFUL. RE UPCOMING JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, SADAT NOW BELIEVES THAT RATHER THAN FOCUS ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, MAJOR EFFORT OUGHT TO BE TO WORK TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT BASED ON "PLAN" HE GAVE TO SECRETARY EARLIER THIS YEAR AT MAAMURA. I POINTED OUT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT HAS BEEN EXPENDED IN TRYING TO WORK OUT AN ACCEPTABLE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, BUT NOTED THE TWO CONCEPTS NOT NECESSARILY INCOMPATIBLE. MUBARAK ALSO INFORMS THAT IF UPCOMING POLITICAL COMMITTEE PRODUCES NO RESULTS, SADAT WILL SIMPLY POSTPONE SETTING A NEW DATE FOR RESUMED MEETING TO ALLOW TIME FOR MORE INDIRECT NEGOTIATIONS. SINCE MUBARAK THOUGHT SATURDAY MIGHT BE INCONVENIENT FOR SADAT TO RECEIVE ME, HE IS TRYING SCHEDULE MEETING FOR 1100 SUNDAY, JANUARY 15. END SUMMARY.

1. VERY LATE LAST NIGHT, VP MUBARAK CALLED TO ASK THAT I URGENTLY MEET WITH HIM THIS MORNING AT HIS RESIDENCE IN HELIOPOLIS. HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM MEETING.

2. ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS: MUBARAK SAID SADAT HAS ASKED HIM BRING TO OUR ATTENTION VARIOUS RECENT BEGIN STATEMENTS ON SETTLEMENTS. BOTH BEGIN AND RADIO ISRAEL SEEM TO BE MAKING STATEMENTS ON SETTLEMENTS EVERY FEW HOURS. ALTHOUGH DAYAN STATED PUBLICLY IN ROME THAT THE SETTLEMENTS WERE NOT A PROBLEM AND THAT ISRAEL COULD DISPOSE OF THEM IN SECRET

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ONE OF SEVERAL WAYS, BEGIN'S STATEMENTS SEEM TO CONTRADICT THIS. HE THEN READ RADIO ISRAEL STATEMENTS, AS MONITORED BY EGYPTIANS, INDICATING THAT ISRAELI PLANNING COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED TO ENLARGE YAMIT AND BUILD NEW TOWN BETWEEN RAFAH AND MASHAV DIKLA (PHONETIC). AN AREA OF ABOUT 1,200 HECTARS WOULD BE CULTIVATED. SEAPORT WOULD BE BUILT AND ABOUT 5,000 HOUSES ESTABLISHED IN YAMIT. PROPOSED CANAL BETWEEN MEDITERRANEAN AND DEAD SEA, ACCORDING THESE RADIO REPORTS, MIGHT ALSO TERMINATE AT YAMIT. THESE ISRAELI STATEMENTS, MUBARAK CHARGED, ARE PROVOCATIVE AND HARDLY AUGUR WELL FOR JERUSALEM MEETING.

3. PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT RE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS: THIS GAVE ME OPPORTUNITY TO ASK MUBARAK CONVEY TO SADAT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS RECEIVED HIS APPEAL FOR HELP ON THE ISSUE OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS, IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT PROBLEM, AND WANTS TO BE OF HELP TO SADAT TO RESOLVE IT. I MENTIONED VARIOUS STATEMENTS WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER PERSONALLY, AND OTHER USG SPOKESMEN HAVE MADE, MAKING CLEAR OUR DISAPPROVAL OF AND OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. MOST RECENT WAS PRESIDENT CARTER'S JANUARY 12 PRESS CONFERENCE.

MUBARAK INTERVENED TO SAY SADAT HAD HEARD ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERTINENT COMMENTS. SADAT WAS VERY PLEASED AND ASKED THAT HIS THANKS BE CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT.

4. I AGAIN TOLD MUBARAK THAT OUR RELATIVELY LOW KEY STAND PUBLICLY ON ISRAELI STATEMENTS RE SINAI IS INTENDED AVOID ACRIMONIOUS PUBLIC DEBATE AT THIS STAGE, WHEN JERUSALEM TALKS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT CARTER WANTED SADAT TO KNOW THAT HE HAS SENT PRIMIN BEGIN LETTER IN WHICH USG POSITION WAS CANDIDLY RESTATED AND OUR CONCERN OVER RECENT ISRAELI ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS REITERATED. ALSO TOLD MUBARAK THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL INSTRUCT SECRETARY VANCE TO PURSUE SUBJECT FURTHER
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WITH BEGIN IN JERUSALEM AND THE SECRETARY WILL BE IN A POSITION TO REPORT TO SADAT ON HIS WAY BACK TO WASHINGTON. IN MEANTIME, IT WOULD CLEARLY BE BEST FOR ALL CONCERNED TO AVOID FURTHER PUBLIC EXCHANGES ON THIS CONTENTIOUS ISSUE. WE HAD BEEN GRATIFIED BY STATES-MANLIKE RESTRAINT SHOWN BY SADAT IN DEALING WITH THE SUBJECT. SINCE MUBARAK WAS LEAVING IMMEDIATELY AFTER OUR MEETING FOR ASWAN TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT, I ASKED THAT HE CONVEY ABOVE POINTS TO THE PRESIDENT. MUBARAK SAID HE WILL DO SO.

5. MILITARY COMMITTEE: MUBARAK THEN SAID THAT, BECAUSE OF INCONCLUSIVE MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS (ESPECIALLY ON SETTLEMENTS ISSUE), SADAT HAS DECIDED TO INSTRUCT GAMASY NOT RPT NOT TO FIX A DATE FOR THE NEXT SESSION. WEIZMAN'S IDEA HAD BEEN TO RETURN TO CAIRO ON TUESDAY TO RESUME THE TALKS, BUT SADAT HAS CONCLUDED THAT HE WANTS TO WAIT FOR THE RESULTS OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER A RESUMED SESSION OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE LIKELY BE USEFUL.

6. JERUSALEM MEETING--GO FOR COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT: WITH RESPECT TO THE UPCOMING JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, MUBARAK SAID SADAT HAS BEEN MULLING OVER HOW IT MIGHT EVOLVE. SADAT BELIEVES THAT IF THE ISSUE OF A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IS TO BE DISCUSSED IN JERUSALEM THE ISRAELIS MAY BE EXPECTED MAKE A MAJOR FIGHT AGAINST HAVING ANYTHING MEANINGFUL; SHOULD A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES BE ACHIEVED, THE NEXT STEP WILL BE WORKING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT AND THE ISRAELIS WILL AGAIN MAKE ANOTHER MAJOR BATTLE AGAINST THIS. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, SADAT HAS CONCLUDED THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO HAVE ONLY ONE MAJOR BATTLE IN THE CONFERENCE.
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SADAT URGED, THEREFORE, THAT THE UNITED STATES AND GOE WORK TOGETHER TO UTILIZE THE JERUSALEM TALKS TO PRESS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION AND DROP HIS EARLIER IDEA OF A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. ALL EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED AT A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT INVOLVING BORDERS, THE WEST BANK AND GAZA AND RESOLVING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. SADAT RECALLED THAT HE HAD GIVEN SECRETARY VANCE A "PLAN" AT MAAMURA AND URGED THAT THE SECRETARY REVIEW IT AND ACT ON IT "AS THE MOST PRACTICAL WAY TO PROCEED."

7. I NOTED THAT IN RESPONSE SADAT'S EARLIER REQUEST, WE HAVE INDEED EXPENDED CONSIDERABLE EFFORT IN TRYING TO WORK TOWARD AN ACCEPTABLE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. TO SHIFT GEARS AT THIS LATE DATE COULD CAUSE CONFUSION AND PROBLEMS. IN ANY EVENT, AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, SADAT'S IDEA OF A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WAS INTENDED TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. THE TWO CONCEPTS WERE THUS NOT INCOMPATIBLE. MUBARAK AGREED, BUT AGAIN REPEATED, BY ROTE, THAT SADAT NOW BELIEVES ALL EFFORTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED AT THE DETAILS OF A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT RATHER THAN A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

8. JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING: I RECALLED THAT THE VP HAD TOLD ME LAST NIGHT THAT (CAIRO 1303) IF THE JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING PRODUCES NO RESULTS, SADAT IS THINKING OF "STOPPING" THE PEACE PROCESS WE HAD HAD NO CHANCE TO DISCUSS THIS, BUT I WANTED HIM TO KNOW MY PERSONAL VIEW THAT DOING SO WOULD BE A MISTAKE. IT WOULD PLACE ON SADAT THE ONUS OF BLAME FOR SUCH A STOPPAGE OF TALKS. MUBARAK AGREED. HE SAID THAT SADAT HAD INDEED DURING PAST FEW DAYS BEEN TALKING ABOUT "STOPPING" THE PEACE PROCESS IF THE JERUSALEM TALKS PRODUCE NO RESULT. HE, MUBARAK, HAD BEEN SEEKING DISSUADE HIM. ACCORDING MUBARAK, SADAT HAS NOW AGREED THAT IF JERUSALEM TALKS PRODUCE NO RESULT, HE WILL SIMPLY POSTPONE

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SETTING A NEW DATE FOR A RESUMED MEETING OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE IN THE SAME MANNER THAT GAMASY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE NO NEW DATE FOR RECONVENING OF MILITARY COMMITTEE. THIS WILL PRECLUDE EGYPT BEING BLAMED FOR THE CESSATION OF PEACE TALKS AND WILL ALSO ALLOW TIME FOR FURTHER INDIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE NEW MEETING IS CALLED.

9. MEETING WITH SADAT: I ASKED IF I MIGHT MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT SOMETIME TOMORROW AFTER HIS RETURN. MUBARAK THOUGHT THAT SINCE SADAT WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL EARLY SATURDAY AFTERNOON, TOMORROW MIGHT NOT BE THE MOST CONVENIENT TIME FOR SADAT TO RECEIVE ME. A BETTER TIME MIGHT BE 1100 SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, I.E., JUST BEFORE SADAT INSTRUCTS THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. HE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE THIS. EILTS.
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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